



# City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Five, Issue 2c



## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

Thank you for the vote of confidence in re-electing me to the Office of Mayor of the City of Westminster. Council Member Chiavacci was also re-elected and Council Member Suzanne Albert will be returning to the Council. We will continue to serve the residents of the City, provide a solid financial foundation and revitalize downtown.

The following budget actions have been approved by the Common Council:

- ◆ A one-cent reduction in the General Fund Property Tax from .57 cents to .56 cents. This commitment to reduce the tax increase as capital improvement projects were completed was made by the Mayor and Council when the increase was adopted in 2009.
- ◆ No increase in water or sewer rates.
- ◆ Place the one-time highway user revenue in the Capital Project Reserve account to use for emergency or one-time only projects since there is no commitment for continuing this revenue source beyond this year.
- ◆ Included a 3% cost of living increase for our employees who have exhibited their commitment and dedication to our residents during the recession and who have not received an increase in five years.
- ◆ Added two emergency projects to the Priority One projects funded by the tax increase: replacement of the furnaces in the Police Department and partial replacement of the Skateboard Park. The other priority capital projects include vehicle and equipment replacement, street overlay and sidewalk replacement projects, repairs to City Hall and the Longwell Armory and replacement of the SAN network.
- ◆ The budget is available for your review on our web site [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov).

The City will be “alive with the sound of music” this summer starting June 6 and running through July 28:

**6:30 CONCERT SERIES—Thursdays at the Westminster Library Stage**

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS SERIES—Westminster City Park, 6:45 P.M.**

**COMMON GROUND ON THE TOWN—Festival Downtown, July 13, 9:00 P.M.**

For more information, visit [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov) under “Summer Concerts” or view the direct link here: <http://www.westminstermd.gov/recreation/documents/Livemusicposter.pdf>

Sincerely,

Mayor Utz

# June-July-August

## ZUMBA-TOMIC 4 week session

Begins June 11 For klds 4-12

Ages 4-7 Tuesday & Thursday 5-5:45pm

Ages 8-12 Tuesday and Thursday 7-8pm

\$30 per session/per child

ZumbAtomic is a high energy fitness party designed specifically for children with music from hip hop, reggae and other genres that makes fitness fun! Call 410-848-9161 for details

## Art In The Park

June 1 10am-4pm At City Hall Grounds

**RAIN OR SHINE**

For details on this annual festival of the arts, call Carroll County Arts Council at 410-848-7272

## WESTMINSTER CITY REC

### SUMMER DAY CAMP!

Begins June 17

Just \$115 per week will enable kids in grades K-8 to enjoy a summer of fun, games, and friends. Spaces fill quickly. Call 410-848-9161 for info.

## Tie Dye Luau Party at the Pool!

**June 28 5-8pm**

Join the fun at the Westminster Municipal Pool while we luau poolside with DJ Daryl, tie dye tee shirts and swim! Admission is free for pool members, \$7 for non-members. Call 410-848-9161 for details!

## National Night Out Tuesday, August 6

Help run crime out of our neighborhoods with this annual block party. Contact Sgt. Keith Benfer at 410-848-9280 for details.



**JULY IS RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH! CHECK OUR WEBSITE IN JUNE FOR THE AMAZING THINGS WE HAVE PLANNED EVERY DAY IN JULY!**



**Westminster Family Fitness Center**  
**NO ENROLLMENT FEE\***

**\*with this coupon**

Bring this coupon with you when you enroll as a new member of the Westminster Family Fitness Center and pay  
**NO ENROLLMENT FEE!**

Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount.

Coupon expires August 31, 2013



**Westminster Family Fitness Center**  
**1 FREE ADMITANCE\***

**\*With this coupon**

Come try us and see why we're one of the most popular fitness centers in Westminster!

Coupon expires August 31, 2013

## Some Things to Celebrate in Westminster

### Celebrating Over 25 Years as a



**TREE CITY USA**

### Arbor Day April 25, 2013

Every year the City celebrates Arbor Day. The beauty of our trees is obvious. Our "collection" of Heritage Trees is impressive by any measure. This year we celebrated Arbor Day with two special events.

The official ceremony was our 1<sup>st</sup> celebration. This year's ceremony was held with the students and faculty of East Middle. With members of the Westminster Tree Commission also in attendance we held the traditional Arbor Day Memorial Tree Planting – Mayor Utz presented the 2013 Arbor Day Proclamation and then the East Middle team provided the memorial dedication. Student representatives then proceeded with the tree planting. Typically the event takes no longer than 30 – 45 minutes.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Celebration was held with nearly 100 hands working the dirt the afternoon of April 30<sup>th</sup>. These dirty hands were busy planting many trees in the stream buffer along Longwell Run near East Middle. Our sincere thanks to some 30 students from East Middle, members of the Jobe Mikalauskas Stream Club and the Westminster Tree Commission.

Restoring our many stream buffers will be a major effort of our community for the next several years. Our stream restoration projects are part of the 'Save The Bay' efforts and are part of the City's Watershed Improvement Program.

Want to help...plant a tree!



**Westminster**  
Proudly  
Celebrating  
Our 250<sup>th</sup> Year

### National Preservation Month

In May we celebrate Historic Preservation Month. Our architectural heritage is as important to our past as it is to Westminster today and to our future.

Hundreds of buildings around town contribute to our architectural heritage. Certainly the Longwell Mansion, our City Hall, is part of that heritage.

The old fire hall along Main Street, our many churches round town, proud & prominent Main Street commercial buildings from the last century and the century before that; these are all a part of this rich heritage.

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So too are the everyday day homes of the average Joe and their families from a century or two ago.

As you drive around town, or better yet as you are walking around town, look around, look up and imagine life in Westminster 50, 100 or even 250 years ago.

Celebrate Preservation Month the easy way come to Main Street—treat yourself to a nice meal, tea and desert, coffee and a donut, soda and a dog, a sub and ice tea, cupcakes and well more cupcakes...you've got the idea now go out and celebrate regardless of the month. Enjoy the rich heritage, let your mind wander.

You can also take advantage of our "ABC's of Historic Preservation" Scavenger Hunt, currently underway! Details and clues are available on the City's homepage or directly at:

[http://westminstermd.gov/citygov/citygov\\_hdc.html](http://westminstermd.gov/citygov/citygov_hdc.html)

Working to preserve the past for years to come are the members of the City's Historic District Commission. Remember if you are thinking about renovations, repairs and/or improvements to your property the members of the Historic District Commission are here to provide you with advice and if you qualify, to provide you with tax credits.

## Be An Environmental Gardener

### **GRASSCYCLING**

If you are bagging lawn clippings, you are wasting a valuable resource. Clippings contain valuable nutrients that provide organic matter to the soil. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn reduces the need for commercial fertilizer. This is called "grasscycling." Grasscycling saves you money and time, improves the appearance of your lawn and does not cause thatch. Simply follow these steps:

- ◆ Set sharp mower blade to keep grass 2 1/2 –3" high
- ◆ Mow as needed and when grass is dry
- ◆ Avoid over fertilizing your lawn; this encourages overgrowth that contributes to thatch
- ◆ Water only during extended dry spells; one inch of water every five to seven days is best

### **COMPOSTING**

Composting is the natural process of decomposition of organic materials into a humus rich soil known as compost. For details on how to compost, visit [www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org) and click on the "Smart Choices" link.

Yard trimmings are banned from being deposited in the landfill cell or transferred to other disposal facilities. Acceptable yard trimmings can be delivered to the designated site at the County's landfills at no charge in Kraft (paper) bags, plastic bags are prohibited at the yard trim area as they damage the equipment.

Yard trimmings are collected every Wednesday from City residents in bushel-sized containers or paper bags ONLY.

## Westminster Approves Residential Rental Housing License Program

On January 28, 2013, the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster approved Ordinance No. 839 that creates a Rental Housing License Program in the City of Westminster ("City"). A dwelling, dwelling unit or portion thereof, including a rooming/boarding house, is considered to be a rental unit by the Rental Housing License Program if it is occupied by any person other than the property owner in exchange for any compensation or monetary remuneration.

The City's Rental Housing License Program becomes effective June 1, 2013. Property owners who rent residential rental properties in Westminster must apply for and obtain a license from the City for each residential unit before it can be rented.

- ◆ The annual license fee is \$20 per unit and licenses are valid for one year only.
- ◆ The annual license period for the first year of the program runs from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014.
- ◆ The normal timely filing period for applications is 30 days. Ordinance No. 839 contains language that extends the timely filing period from 30 to 60 days for the first year of the program. If the City receives a completed application with the required fees by July 31, 2013, the annual licensing fee would be \$20 per unit. However, applications filed after that date would include an increased license fee for each unit based on the lateness of the filing. Notwithstanding the effective date of the program, property owners may submit Rental Housing License Applications and pay the required fees prior to June 1, 2013 if they so desire.

The Rental Licensing Program includes a "complaint driven" inspection process. You may file a complaint in by telephone at 410-848-9000; mail or in person at the City offices located at 56 W. Main Street in downtown Westminster; or email through the City's website at [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov) under Online Services - Client Services Request. Upon receipt of a complaint, the City will investigate the complaint after seeking permission from the tenant or property owner to enter the rental unit. If a violation is found, the Code Enforcement Inspector will provide the property owner with a notice of violation and a timeframe to correct the violation. If the issue is resolved, the matter is closed. If not, then the Code Enforcement Inspector will issue a citation and request a court date. The City may also revoke and/or deny the license, abate the violation and bill the property owner and reserves the option to seek a court injunction to gain compliance.

Ordinance No. 839 includes a "Habitual Offender" provision. A "Habitual Offender" is a person owning a residential rental unit, who has paid a fine or has been found guilty of violating provisions of the City's Property Maintenance Code on three (3) separate occasions within a 12 month period. If an owner of a residential dwelling unit becomes a "Habitual Offender", all fines levied by the City would be tripled and the annual rental license fee for a rental dwelling unit that is the subject of the "Habitual Offender" designation would be \$500 per unit.

During the month of February 2013, the City mailed information and a Rental Housing License Application to over 600 property owners of record that may be potentially affected by this new program. Additionally, a fillable PDF version of the Rental Housing License Application may be found on the City's webpage by clicking on "Online Services" and going to "Forms and Applications." Then go to the category "Rental Licensing Program" and click on the form "Rental Housing Licensing Application." There is also a form titled "Rental Housing License Application Continuation Sheet" if a property owner that has four (4) or more rental units at the same address.

Please also note that based on a case (McDaniel vs. Baranowski) that was decided by the Maryland Court of Appeals in 2010, a landlords in jurisdictions with rental licensing programs that may only evict a tenant if the rental unit is property licensed prior to the eviction action. A landlord "must affirmatively plead and demonstrate that he is licensed at the time of the filing of the complaint for summary ejection in order to initiate the summary ejection process". Based on the adoption of Ordinance No.839, this case will affect residential rental properties in Westminster effective June 1, 2013.

City staff held four public information meetings at Westminster City Hall, located at 1838 Emerald Hill Lane, so property owners and others could have the opportunity to ask questions and obtain information. They were scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 pm; Thursday, March 14th at 9:30 am; Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm; and Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. These sessions were scheduled at different times on different days to maximize the potential for participation.

Further information about the Rental Housing License Program is available on the City's website at [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov) under News and Events – Rental Licensing – Frequently Asked Questions. The Rental Housing License Application and Continuation Sheet, in PDF-fillable format, are available on the City's website at Online Services – Forms and Applications – Rental Licensing Program. You may also call the Rental Housing License Program office at 410-848-9000 if you need further information.

## Carroll Arts Center Events

**Sunday, June 16, 3pm:** The Eric Byrd Trio presents "Unforgettable: A Tribute to Nat King Cole." The Trio will be joined by guitarist Dan Vogel for this special tribute concert. Tickets for the concert are \$16 for adults and \$14 for Arts Council Members, Seniors 60+ and Students 18 & Under.

**Friday, July 12, 8pm:** The Crowdaddies will spice it up in their first appearance at the Arts Center. Their music combines Louisiana's Cajun/Zydeco style with American Blues and Roots Rock to create sound that is all its own. Tickets are \$16 for Members, Students under 18 and Seniors; \$18 general admission.

### **FREE Summer Family Movies:**

Tuesdays at 7pm at the Carroll Arts Center

- June 25: *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* (1982)
- July 2: *An American Tail* (1986)
- July 9: *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988)
- July 16: *The Little Rascals* (1994)
- July 23: *Field of Dreams* (1989)
- July 30: *The Muppet Movie* (1979)

### **Civil War Programming**

Two movies will be screened to complement the "Images of the Civil War" exhibit (see next column):

**Thursday, June 13 at 3pm & 7pm:** The 2013 Academy Award winning "Lincoln". The film focuses on Lincoln's tumultuous final months in office as he pursues a course of action designed to end slavery but perhaps not the War. Daniel Day-Lewis captures Lincoln in a most compelling performance. "Lincoln" is rated PG-13 and runs 150 minutes. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.

**Friday, June 21, 7:30pm:** the 2003 film "Cold Mountain" will be shown. In the waning days of the Civil War, a wounded soldier embarks on a perilous journey back to North Carolina to reunite with his sweetheart. Stars Jude Law, Renee Zellweger and Nicole Kidman. "Cold Mountain" is rated R and runs 154 minutes.

The programs are sponsored by Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and the Carroll County Office of Tourism. For more information or to purchase movie tickets in advance, call 410/848-7272 or go to [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)



## 10x10 Anniversary Exhibit

The exhibit will be on view now through June 7 and is sponsored by Tevis Energy.

It has been 10 years since the doors of the Carroll Arts Center opened to the community. To commemorate this special occasion, the Arts Center will be hosting a unique exhibit that will



feature more than 120 works of art, each measuring exactly 10"x 10." Despite the uniformity in size, there is a wide range of styles and mediums including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, sculpture, photography and mixed media.

All works are for sale for \$100 each, with 75% of the sale price going directly to the artist and the remaining 25% benefiting the Carroll County Arts Council.

## Gallery: Images of the Civil War

The exhibit will be on view in the Tevis Gallery from June 13 through August 16, 2013.

The Civil War conjures up strong sentiments on politics, slavery, women and children, uniforms, portraits and much more. What's changed? What remains? How does this War's legacy impact us today?

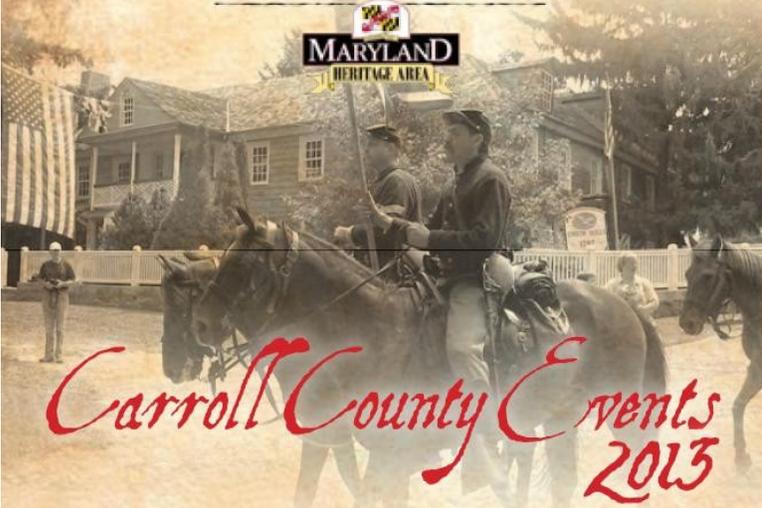
"We are anxious to see this story told through the eyes of artists," says Visual Arts Coordinator, Susan Williamson. "So many programs and activities strive to educate people about the Civil War in a factual manner with accuracy and authenticity, and rightly so. However, this exhibit will be an opportunity to express how America's bloodiest conflict affects today's society on an emotional and spiritual level. We hope to see some powerful works dealing with racial differences, the concept of neighbor against neighbor, the commercialization of Gettysburg, the trauma over the number of lives lost and the heroic actions of so many during the Civil War. Without a doubt, we hope this will be more than an exhibit featuring photographs of weathered battlefield monuments. We hope to inspire thought, reflection and conversation."

"Images of the Civil War" is made possible by a grant from: The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a certified heritage area of the Maryland Heritages Area Authority.

Participants may register online or at the Carroll Arts Center.

HEART OF THE  
CIVIL WAR

150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Carroll County Events  
2013

**16th Annual Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective**

Sat., March 23 – 9:30am-3pm

Explore Civil War history with a keynote address, sessions, and exhibits.

Carroll Community College

1601 Washington Road, Westminster

410-848-6494 • [hsc.carr.org](http://hsc.carr.org)



**Corbit's Charge Ball - 1863 Masqued Ball**

Sat., March 30 – 8pm-11pm

Evening of period dancing, dance instruction and light refreshments. For the experienced and novice dancer.

Period or formal attire is requested.

Westminster Family Fitness Center Gym

11 Longwell Avenue, Westminster

410-848-9161 • [westminstermd.gov](http://westminstermd.gov)

(Under Recreation & Parks and Events & Programs)



**"Finally Heard"**

Fri., May 3 - 8pm • Sat., May 4 - 2pm

A play about six remarkable women who served their country in different capacities during the Civil War.

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272

[www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)



**First Call Civil War Expo and Civil War Living History Reenactment**

Sat., May 4 – 10am-5pm • Sun., May 5 – 10am-4pm

Exhibits, living history demonstrations, troop engagements, Civil War era musical performances, book signings, and lectures. Civil War troops recreate forgotten lifestyles.

Carroll County Farm Museum

500 S. Center Street, Westminster

410-386-3880 • [www.carrollcountymuseum.org](http://www.carrollcountymuseum.org)



**"Lincoln"**

Thurs., June 13 – 3pm & 7pm

Showing of the acclaimed film about Lincoln as he struggled with the continuing carnage on the battlefield while fighting with his own cabinet members.

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272 • [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)



**Images of the Civil War**

June 13 – August 6

An Exhibit honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in Carroll County

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272 • [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)



**Corbit's Charge Commemoration**

Fri., June 28 - 7pm

Commemoration and dedication at the battle memorial of the grave of Lt. Murray, CSA, along with the laying of a wreath. Battle site walking tours will be available.

Church of the Ascension, N. Center St., Westminster

Sat., June 29 – 10am-8pm • Sun., June 30 – 10am-4pm

Civil War living history encampment, military and civilian demonstrations, period artisans and music, & more.

Union Mills Homestead & Grist Mill

3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster

410-848-2288 • [www.unionmills.org](http://www.unionmills.org)



**Civil War Encampment & Living History**

Sat. & Sun., July 20 & 21 – 10am-4pm

Union and Confederate troops camp along the Big Pipe Creek and recreate some of the days following the Battle of Gettysburg. Drills and skirmishes.

Union Mills Homestead & Grist Mill

3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster

410-848-2288 • [www.unionmills.org](http://www.unionmills.org)



800-272-1933  
[www.carrollcountytourism.org](http://www.carrollcountytourism.org)

For info on more Civil War activities in Carroll County, please call 800-272-1933 or go to [www.carrollcountytourism.org](http://www.carrollcountytourism.org).